(e) whether it is a fact that Rs. 10,000 crore have been spent on modernisation of these two steel plants and capacity utilisation of these plants has increased to the expected level;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(h) if so, the action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) An amount of Rs. 4472.65 crores on modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) and Rs. 3453.84 crores on modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) respectively have been spent by SAIL till 1996-97.

The modernisation programmes are in advance stages of completion in these steel plants and improvement in capacity utilisation to the envisaged level will be known on completion of the various units and their stabilisation. No Expert Committee has been formed to examine and report in this regard.

(f) to (h) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Bonus to Railway Employees**

1464. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Assistant and Stenographer 'C' were paid bonus for the year 1995-96;

(b) if so, whether the said amount of bonus is being recovered from these employees;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the said employees of the Railway Board have also paid the income tax on the amount of bonus received by them; and

(e) if so, the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Assistants and Stenographers 'C' working in other Ministries were not paid ad-hoc bonus for the financial year 1995-96 on the ground that they are classified as Group-'B' non-gazetted. In fact a directive was received from the Ministry of Finance to recover the Productivity Linked Bonus amount paid to such staff of this Ministry.

(d) and (e) Since the entire Productivity Linked Bonus amount was not recovered from these employees before March, 1997, the amount was taken into account for calculation of Income-tax.

*[English]*

**Commercial Broadcasting System in AIR**

1465. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Commercial Broadcasting Centre of All India Radio has since started working in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to appoint adequate staff for early start of the said centre?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Proposal regarding sanctioning of adequate staff for Commercial Broadcasting Centre of All India Radio, Visakapatnam is under active consideration of the Government.

*[Translation]*

**Increase in Prices of Steel Products**

1466. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Steel majors set to raise HRC prices" appearing in the Business Standard dated July 1, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the big steel producers have been continuously increasing the prices of their products for past years; and

(c) if so, the names of the varieties of steel the prices of which have been increased during the last three years till March, 1997 and the percentage of increase effected and the grounds on which the said price rise was effected?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details relating to SAIL in respect of some representative categories of steel are attached as Statement.